

**JUSTIFICATION SUBMITTAL LETTER FOR**  
**FOUNTAIN OPERATION @ RITZ COVE HOA,**  
**A DESERT SHORES COMMUNITY**

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The semi-circle cascading water fountain at the entrance to Ritz Cove HOA was built in the late 1980's as part of the overall landscape plan of the area. It is located to the west of the intersection of Buffalo Dr. and Smoke Ranch Rd. It was upgraded in the mid 1990's with newer more efficient motor/pumps installed, along with a reduction in the water cascading area, and reduced time in motor/pump operation. (Please see attached).

A couple of years ago, at the request of the Las Vegas Valley Water District, the fountain was turned OFF in compliance with the current "Drought Alert". We understand that the fountain may now qualify to be operated under certain environmental controls, reduced water cascading area, reduced operating time, reduced motor/pump capacity, and hopefully reduced sprinkled lawn areas. The Management of Ritz Cove recently circulated a questionnaire to all Homeowners within the area and the response was a resounding YES to have the fountain running again. The Homeowners want the fountain to operate. Some even made the emphatic point that a running fountain was the main reason they purchased a home within the area, and they feel running the fountain impacts their property values on the positive side. The fountain is seen every time they enter our gated community. This letter is the result of the Homeowners desires to operate the fountain on a more conservative basis and also be in compliance with the City and the Water District.

The submittal letter requires that items must be detailed, how the new project will support existing City and Water District policies and regulations along with pertinent Water District data on our accounts.

The current plans call for only two small cascading water streams from the top manifold channel, flowing near the middle of the fountain, to the bottom-retaining basin. This is a vertical drop of about eight feet with an area of about twenty-seven (27) square feet of exposed cascading water area. (Please note colored photos, enclosed). The bottom 18 inch-deep retaining basin will be used to catch and hold the cascaded water for purposes of pumping it back up to the top manifold to create a recirculating system within itself. We hope to keep the retaining basin at the bottom in the 25 sq. ft. area (about 280 gal.)- previously it was about 7-800 sq. ft. at a 30-inch depth. Also previously, the exposed cascading water area was about 200 sq feet, now it would be about 27 sq. ft. The proposed reduction in size of the current retaining basin (from about 14,025 gallons to 280-300 gallons) represents the biggest area reduction of evaporative surface this retrofit project encompasses. For evaporation surface alone this is a reduction of greater than 80%, and the overall gallon reduction is an even greater reduction percentage.

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The previous manifold basin at the top is about 66 feet long, representing about 100 sq. feet of evaporative surface. Now we want to make it smaller and only about 10 feet long- another reduction in exposed water surface area. Our contractor believes that with the reduced requirements of area and water, both of the 20 HP motors/pumps in the below ground pump room can be eliminated and only a single 5 HP motor/pump would be needed. We have already installed a new efficient sump/pump in the pump room for safety purposes, and will not use the currently installed, built-in, 8-inch PVC pipes from past operations of the fountain. The new supply pipe will be a 3 or 4 inch PVC that will take water from the retaining or catch basin, pumping it directly up to the manifold basin at the top of the fountain.

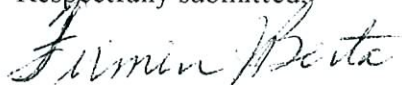
In keeping with the spirit of reduced water useage and evaporation, we have communicated to our contractor the downscaling of the fountain cascading area, and why. This includes the prudent use not only of water but also electric power that uses a lot of water in its generation. The homeowners will still see cascading water. We will supplement the exposed rock area in the fountain with drip-irrigated greenery. In addition, we want to place several, very large, decorative, flower pots in the vacant lower basin area, which will probably be back-filled with either rock or a planting soil. Furthermore, within our community, we are also prepared to make a reduction, if necessary, in lawn areas at two cul-de-sacs, both of which have small fountains in the center of a green area. These fountains are OFF and will remain so. The turf area we would eliminate amounts to about 1213 sq. ft. and the area would be converted to drip irrigated low-growing bushes. We are trying hard to comply with the "Drought Alert".

And finally, our account with the Las Vegas Valley Water District is:

RITZ COVE HOA # 9060542962.

Under this account we utilize several water meters.

Respectfully submitted,



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